ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Ninth Annual Session

OF THE

LIBERTY

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Locust Grove Church,

Madison County, Ala.,

September 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1896.

—o—

OFFICERS:

J. P. HAMPTON, Meridianville, Ala.....MODERATOR
PERRY HENDERSON, Athens, Ala.,.....CLERK

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

J. P. HAMPTON, Chairman, R. E. PETTUS, Clerk and Treasurer,
R. P. WHITMAN, H. E. RICE, J. M. GOOCH, M. B. NEECE.

PRINTED BY T. P. HAY & BRO., HUNTSVILLE, ALA.
1896.

PATRONIZE THE

HUNTSVILLE STEAM LAUNDRY

E. T. BAILES, Prop.

No. 407 West Clinton Street, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

A. CAMPBELL,

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS AND SHOES,

Hats and Caps, Ladies Cloaks, Lace Damask and Chenille Curtains. Carpets, Art Squares, Rugs, Oil Cloths, Linolieums and Upholstry Goods. The largest stock of Carpets in North Alabama.

No. 16. Commercial Row, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

MACON & ANDREWS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

GROCERS

When in need of anything in the Grocery line. We also handle the finest line of FLOUR in the city. The brand "Wise's Brand."

McGee Hotel Block. HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

GILBERT'S

Compound Elixir Squaw Vine

The Great Female Regulator. Prepared by

THOMAS H. GILBERT, PHARMACIST,

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

MINUTES.

The Delegates composing the Fifty-Ninth Annual Session of the Liberty Baptist Association convened with Locust Grove Church, Madison County, Alabama, on Thursday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1896, at 10:00 a. m. Devotional services were conducted by Rev. J. A. Eaves, by reading 34th Psalms. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. A. E. Burns, from a portion 14th Verse of 4th Chapter of Judges. "Up for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand. Is not the Lord gone out before thee?" Prayer by Rev. W. W. Harris. Recess at 12:30 p. m., to 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met at 2 p. m , and called to order by the Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, for the transaction of business. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Hilliard. Perry Henderson at the Clerk's table.

The Moderator appointed R. P. Whitman and H. M. Teague as Reading Clerks. The roll of churches was alphabetically called by the Moderator and the following Churches presented letters, and had their delegations enrolled as members of the Association:

Beulah—J. W. Freeman, W. H. Eddins and Pink Norton.

Bethel—E. J. Carlisle and G. W. Webster.

Charity East—R. W. Moore and Sam Cagle.

Charity West—J. W. Tanner.

Dallas Avenue—R. E. Pettus, R. P. Whitman, W. W. Harris, A. E. Burns, John Willis, E. M. Giles and Volney Wheeler.

First Church Huntsville—S. R. Butler, M. B. Neece and Oscar Haywood.

Locust Grove--H. M. Teague, T. H. Bayless, J. J. Erwin Z. T. Pettey, George Wilson and J. R. Latham.

Mt. Zion—J. L. Brumley, T. J. Wall, W. L. Hilliard, M. A. Taylor, Arthur Wall, L. D. Durham and J. B. Vasser.

New Market—C. H. Rice.

New Zion—J. T. Cliff, M. R. Gooch and Wesley Dublin.

Piney Grove—Pressly Whitt and S. E. Gates.

Pleasant Valley—Walter Pittman.

Round Island—Perry Henderson.

Temperence Oak—D. C. Ramsey and Levy Jarrett.

Union Grove—G. W. Taylor and W F. Manning.

Walnut Hill—T. E. Thorne and C. W. Hughes.

After the enrollment of the delegates, on motion of R. E Pettus the rules were suspended and Dr. J. P. Hampton was re-elected Moderator by acclamation. Upon motion of Perry Henderson the office of Clerk and Treasurer were divided and these offices were filled by different brethren. On motion of R. P. Whitman the rules were suspended and Perry Henderson was elected Clerk by acclamation. R. P. Whitman was elected Treasurer by motion of R. E. Pettus.

Upon call for Petitionary Letters, Mt. Pisgah responded by letter and the following delegates: W. J. Baugher, W. E. Sexton and E. E. Key. Rice's Baptist Church by Letter and delegates, Rev. H. E. Rice and W. A. Power, and upon motion both were received and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

Upon call for Correspondence, R. E. Pettus moved that the following be invited to seats with us, Rev. A. E. Burns, State Evangelist for North Alabama; Rev. P. T. Hale, President of the Board of Trustees of Howard College; Rev. A. W. McGaha, former President of Howard College of the Birmingham Association; Rev. P. T. Henderson of Tennessee and Bro. B. B. Toney and wife of Tennessee River Association, were invited to seats as Advisory delegates.

The Moderator appointed Pastor and Deacons of Locust Grove Church as a committee on Devotional Exercises to report on call.

Committee on Synopsis of Church Letters—M. B. Neece, T. H. Bayless and G. W. Taylor.

Committee on Finance—R. P. Whitman, C H. Rice and G. T. Wilson.

Under the regular order of business, the Clerk and Treasurer made report as follows:

REPORT OF CLERK AND TREASURER.

—o—

PERRY HENDERSON IN ACCOUNT WITH LIBERTY ASSOCIATION, 1895-96.

—o—

LOCUST GROVE CHURCH, Sept. 17th, 1896.

1895. —DR—

Sept. 14—To Vouchers for various causes	$457 12	
" " " Cash for Ministerial Education	4 25	
" " " " for Foreign Missions	56 35	
" " " " for State Missions	50 50	
" " " " for Home Missions	9 00	
" " " " for Printing	27 50	
" " " " not specified	14 98	
" " " " for Pub. Col. Min. Ed	9 60	
" " " " for Orphan's Home	5 75	
" " " " for Public Collection	11 86	
		$646 91

—CR—

By Vouchers to Treasurer Executive Board	$457 12	
" Cash to Ministerial Education	4 25	
" " to Foreign Missions	56 35	
" " to State Missions	50 50	
" " to Home Missions	9 00	
" " to Printing	27 50	
" " not specified	14 98	
" " Public Collection Ministerial Education	9 60	
" " Public Collection Orphans Home	5 75	
" " " " Missions	11 86	
		$646 91

Respectfully submitted,

PERRY HENDERSON,
Clerk and Treasurer.

Upon motion of R. P. Whitman, the Moderator called for various committees who had been assigned to report upon subjects at this session in order that all vacancies might be filled.

The following were appointed to fill vacancies on said committees:

Indigent Ministers—J. A. Eaves, H. M. Teague and A. J. Parker.

On Prayer Meeting—W. W. Harris.

Orphan's Home—R. E. Pettus.

Woman's Work—R. P. Whitman.

By motion of Rev. Oscar Haywood, the rules were to be suspended in order that the subject of education might be the first order of business to-morrow morning immediately after devotional exercises.

By motion of R. P. Whitman, the meeting hours of this body were to be at 9:30 a. m. for Devotional Exercises, adjournment at 12 m. to meet at 1:30 p. m., adjourn at will, meet 7:30 p. m. for preaching.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that at 7:30 p. m., there would be preaching by Rev. P. T. Hale, D. D.; to-morrow at 11 a. m., preaching by Rev. Oscar Haywood. Report adopted.

By motion, Association adjourned with prayer by Rev. W. W. Harris.

NIGHT SESSION—THURSDAY.

The Association assembled at 7:30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. Oscar Haywood. Preaching by Rev. P. T. Hale, D. D., Text: Exodus 10th chapter 26th verse, "There Shall not an Hoof be be left Behind." Benediction by Rev. Oscar Haywood.

FRIDAY MORNING—SECOND DAY.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. The devotional exercises were conducted by J. P. Hampton. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Brother R. E. Pettus stated that owing to an oversight Elder A. E. Burns was not placed on the roll of delegates from Dallas Avenue Baptist Church, and that in consideration of his valuable services, he desired Bro. Burns to be recognized as a delegate and entitled to all the privileges of same, and by a motion of Perry Henderson, he was so recognized by the Association. Rev. W. L. White and S. S. Stiles of Tennessee River Association being present, were invited to seats with us.

Report on Education by Prof. S. R. Butler, was read as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

In presenting a report on Education, it is necessary at the outset to limit the application of the term Education. In the broadest sense of the

word a man is educated, either for good or evil, by everything he experiences from the cradle to the grave. But in the more limited and usual sense, the term education is confined to the efforts made to train man in a particular way. To inform the intellect and mould the character of the young.

Some one has said the civilization of a country is known by its attention to its dead. They are gone, but their lives are green in our memories yet, and our efforts to develop their posterity will do more to perpetuate their memory than bronze statues, or volumes written in their behalf. The education of the young, is or should be substantially the same for a certain period, for the end in view is to train them up to be industrious, intelligent and virtuous men and women, capable of turning their talents to account in whatever position they may be placed. But diversified talents and varied occupations make it necessary for special training. To meet the demands of which, our Universities and Colleges furnish the departments of Theology, Law, Medicine, etc. In mentioning higher education, we include both sexes. The time was when England's sons and daughters were torn from home to be sold into servitude. The blight of the African slave trade needs no mention. It seems when man's nature becomes perverted, he keeps going lower and lower, until he reaches the bottom of the pit into which he has fallen before he begins to rise. It is not possible to conceive of a lower depth to which man could fall, than the one to which this cause reduced him. The father could sell his child into servitude and his wife was only his slave. Age after age has brought reform. Woman is not yet accorded equal rights with man, but this is not the only relic of barbarism which remains in chrisendom. Higher education for girls is growing more favorable every year. Universities are throwing open their doors for the reception of young ladies. Let them take their places by the side of young men and they will and are proving themselves equal to them in many of the vocations of life.

The scriptures say "he that watereth shall be watered also himself." In order that the minister may be fully prepared to give the liquid truth to his people, it is not only necessary to have been commissioned by God, but is very important that he shall have drunk at the fountain from which issue waters of intellectual strength. This preparation awakens fresh trains of thought, increases the knowledge of the scripture and gives a more constant familiarity with all which it brings before us of "the great in conduct and the pure in thought." A stronger moral foundation is laid and a deeper spirited feeling is implanted. We believe it deepens the sense of responsibility of conveying the sacred truth to God's children. None of us can afford to treat lightly a cause through which there is such increased possibilities for opening the spiritual eyes of man. Who can tell the good which may result from $200 given by this Association the present year for Ministerial Education. If one soul is saved through the

instrumentalities of the two ministerial students at Howard College from Liberty Baptist Association, who were aided by this sum, should we not rejoice? And if no one is brought from the bleak mountain of sin into the vale of peace, but, a foundation laid upon which others may work for the master, should we not still rejoice; for there are no slight rewards. They are wholly incommensurable when compared with the small things done. I believe it was Herbert Spencer who said: "Education is what others do for us or we do for ourselves that has a tendendency to perfect our nature." Then it behooves every parent to see that christian influences are thrown around their sons and daughters during school life. Howard College is you all know, the property of the Baptists of Alabama. We are gratified to know that the past year was the most successful in the history of the institution. The enrollment of 165 of which number 33 were ministerial students, the senior class the largest of any year and more remarkable for having the first young lady graduate and an increase of patronage of 75 per cent. in the theological department are all encouraging facts. Young men were given board and tuition by the State Board of Missions at Howard.

Judson Female Institute still sustains the reputation she has made as a school for the education of young women.

We would not fail to make mention of the North Alabama Institute and Normal School. These institutions should receive every possible encouragment at our hands. 318 were matriculated at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary the past scholastic year. Eighteen of this number were composed of young men from Alabama This enrollment shows an increase of 311 since 1865 and an increase of 50 over the matriculation of 1895.

Respectfully submitted,

S. R. Butler.

Brother R. E. Pettus read the report of the Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala. Report as follows :

DANVILLE SCHOOL REPORT.

———o———

Report of the Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School.

Dear Brethren :—The Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, according to the requirements of its Charter, beg leave to make this, their fourth annual report to your body :

The School closed its third session last June more prosperous than ever before. The total enrollment for the session was 94, 47 males and 47 females. The commencement exercises were well attended and the

students gave evidence that they had been well instructed. There was one full graduate and two graduates in the English course. The faculty consisted of Prof. D. F. Green, Miss Lizzie Green and Miss Lizzie Jackson, teacher of Music and Greek. The same faculty remains except Miss Jackson, Miss Susie Shackelford, who is a graduate of the Institution, takes her place as teacher of Music. The fourth session commenced September the 7th, under very favorable auspices and with more flattering prospects than ever before. The enrollment for the first week was 58, which exceeds the opening of any session since the School commenced. We have the promise of quite a number of pupils who will enter later. Our boarding patronage will exceed any of previous years. This shows that our School is gaining in reputation. We have had three young men who are preparing for the ministery, one of them will enter Howard College, as he has completed the course of our institution. We wish to emphasize the fact, that "this is the school" for our young ministers to attend, who are not prepared to enter the higher classes of the Howard. Their tuition is free, and their board and incidental expenses for ten months will not be more than $85 or $90. In some cases less. We give them the same instruction that they could receive in the Freshman or Sophomore classes of the Howard College. If your Association has a man that it desires to aid in preparing for the ministery, why not send him to Danville ? This school is intended to be a first class high school. The Trustees have determined that it shall be thorough in all of its departments. We want no superficial work done, hence we insist on our teachers doing their work thoroughly. We are satisfied that the President of the Institution, Prof. D. F. Green, is the right man, in the right place. He is a a good disciplinarian, kind, pains-taking and thorough in his instruction. He pays special attention to the normal education of his pupils. We ought to have some patronage from the Baptists of Liberty Association. We have had none as yet. It is your school, why not patronize it? If you want your sons or daughters to learn Book-keeping, Typewriting, Music or any of the branches of education that will fit them for the business of life, or for the higher classes in our first class Colleges or University, send them to our school at Danville. It will be cheaper to you. The entire cost of a pupil here for five months, including Board, Tuition and Washing (in Grammar class) will only be $55.50. In the Academic class $58.00. In the Collegiate class $60.50. Preparatory class $52.50. For ten months, twice these amounts. Book-keeping, Typewriting and Music extra, from $1 to $3 per month. The term of the following named trustees expires at this session of your body: R. E. Pettus and J. C. Jones. Their places will have to be filled, either by their re-appointment or the appointment of others.

Respectfully submitted,

T, L. Baker, Secretary.

Jos. Shackelford, President.

Danville, Ala., Sept. 9th, 1896.

On motion to adopt the reports, Bro. R. P. Whitman moved to amend by re-electing Brethren R. E. Pettus and J. C. Jones, Trustees for said Institution at Danville for three years. Reports as amended adopted.

Speeches were made on the above reports by Revs. A. W. McGaha, P. T. Hale and Bro. M. B. Neece

At the close of which a subscription in cash and pledges were taken for the purpose of relieving the debt on Howard College. Rev. P T. Hale giving the exact financial condition of the College of the Baptists of Alabama and in a business proposition informed us just what we were expected to do. The pledges amounted to $338.00. A motion was made to dispense with the 11 a. m. preaching service. Said motion was lost and at 11 a. m., Rev. Oscar Haywood preached from Romans 1st Chapter, 14, 15 and 16 verses. Prayer by Rev. A. E. Burns. On motion of R. P. Whitman, Association adjourned for one hour and thirty minutes. Prayer by Rev. P. T. Hale.

AFTERNOON SESSION—FRIDAY SEPT. 18TH.

The Association met at 1:30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. P. T. Henderson. Rev. Oscar Haywood moved that this Association pledge itself to support Brother Harry Pettus at Howard College for the next collegiate year. After a few appropriate remarks by Brother R. E. Pettus, motion adopted.

Pledges for Ministerial Education was taken as follows :

Beulah	$2 00	Rice's	$2 00
Bethel	2 00	Mt. Zion	30 00
Dallas Avenue	40 00	New Zion	2 50
Huntsville	60 00	Round Island	2 00
Locust Grove	5 00	Mt. Pisgah	2 50
New Market	1 00	R H Taylor	10 00
Piney Grove	2 00		

Total.....$161.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Rev. W. L. White would preach to-night at 7:30 p. m., and Rev. A. W. McGaha, D. D., to-morrow at 11 a. m.

On motion of Brother R. P. Whitman, the subject of Missions was made the special subject for to-morrow at 10 a. m.

On motion of Brother R. P. Whitman, the Moderator was instructed to appoint a committee of three to draft suitable resolutions upon the

death of Hon. Francisco Rice, a former Moderator of this Association. Committee: R P Whitman, J W Hilliard and John A Fanning.

Rev. H. E. Rice made report as follows on Intemperance:

REPORT ON INTEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Intemperance report as follows:

We recognize the sad fact that the liquor traffic has become an over-mastering and deadly evil, social, moral and political. Indeed, it is much doubted, whether there is in all the world a greater impediment to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, than the use of intoxicants. At no period of our history has its ruinous effects been more keenly felt, than now, in its rapid strides. It has invaded every class of society, corrupted every institution, established for the protection of human rights, and what is still more, it has disturbed the harmony of the churches, and brought reproach upon the cause of our blessed Master. The strong arm of the law is impotent and cannot be brought to bear so as to suppress this great evil. Like all other human invented institutions, its objections would be totally disregarded. How then are we to rid ourselves of this great evil, out of which nearly all the other evils grow? First, we would earnestly insist upon the strictest discipline of our members, even in its mildest form for intemperence, believing that the Scriptural injunction of 'touch not, taste not, handle not," the only rule for a true Christian. A Church that has whiskey drinking members, cannot be a light to the world, but is a stumbling block to sinners. Second, if there is a remedy in the world, it is in the genuinely converted Christians of our land, who are willing to rise up as one man and throw themselves in front of its march and by precept and example, teach and warn its victims of the ruin upon which they rush. Until this is done, the Church is crippled, and will effect but little. When the Church and its members become free from the curse of intemperance, then God will answer prayer, and not till then will we be free from the evil.

H. E. Rice.

On motion to adopt, speeches were made by Revs. Oscar Haywood, W. L. White. P. T. Henderson, A. E. Burns and Brother R. A. Petty, after which report as read was adopted.

Brother Perry Henderson made report as follows on Religious Literature:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

It is truthfully said, that a reading people are a thinking people; hence we cannot too strongly insist that every Baptist family take at least

one good sound Baptist paper. None realize it more than the pastor. When church members are attentive readers of religious literature, they readily appreciate the efforts made by him to expound the word of God. The head of each family should keep plenty of good religious papers within reach of his children. If young people are not supplied with wholesome reading, they will soon cultivate a taste for the trashy ten cent novels that abound in the present day. We would be better Missionaries if we would take and read our Mission Journals and learn of the success we are having in christianizing the heathen.

Respectfully submitted,

PERRY HENDERSON,
S. W. BALCH,
W P. WEBSTER,
Committee.

Report adopted.

Rev. J. A. Eaves reported as follows on Indigent Ministers :

REPORT ON INDIGENT MIMISTERS.

To the Liberty Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHREN :—We your committee, to report on Indigent Ministers, beg leave to submit the following :

We have made a close investigation and find that we have no Indigent Ministers and we thank God that we have not. We hope that our churches will support our preachers so that there will be no one that will be classed as such. We your committee, would recommend that the Association look after and care for the widows of our deceased ministers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. EAVES,
H. M. TAEGUE.

Adopted.

Moved by Brother R. P. Whitman that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to nominate an executive committee and a committee to arrange programs for the fifth Sunday meetings. Motion carried. Committee: Brethren S. R. Butler, W. A. Power and W. L. Hilliard.

Brother R. E. Pettus made report on Orphan's Home as follows :

REPORT OF ORPHAN'S HOME.

Feeling a great necessity for a home for the fatherless and motherless children of our deceased ministers, and the poor of our State, our denomination endeavored for years to supply this demand, but nothing definite was formulated until six years ago, when Mrs. Woodson gave the Baptists of Alabama certain valuable property. This good sister has

turned over to us all of her real estate, worth several thousand dollars, to be used after her death for this great purpose, except the Florida property, which she has given for immediate use. The Baptist Orphanage was permanently located at Evergreen three years ago last November, and the property purchased at a cost of five thousand dollars. The debt has all been paid and the valuable property is now free from encumbrance. It consists of eighty acres of land, lying on Main Street, of which thirty acres are in farm, thirty in woods and twenty in pasture.

A letter received from Brother Stewart, the Superintendent this week, bears the intelligence that 29 boys and 31 girls have been received. Out of it have gone by adoption, ten boys and thirteen girls; by apprentice two boys. Girls are not aprenticed, and boys are only in exceptional cases.

The children attend the Agricultural School and most are doing well. They all attend Sunday School and Church. Eight of them have been baptized. More applications are made for admittance than can be accommodated.

There is a pressing need for a cook room, a laundry room, a dining room, and a sick room. While we are doing this, let us provide more dormitories, so we can care for many more of these homeless and friendless little waifs, that are found in every section of this State.

Brethren, shall we not undertake to make these needed additions? Since the cause is just and the demand is urgent, your committee earnestly solicits immediate contributions to this laudable enterprise.

Respectfully,

J. W. Hilliard,
R. E. Pettus.

Report adopted with a agreement a collection for same be made at to-morrows session. Brother R. E. Pettus made some very interesting remarks on the report.

Brother M. B. Neece made report on Young People's Work, viz :

REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

———o———

In this an age of church work, when christian people every where, are putting forth every legitimate effort to win the world for Christ and to build up the best interest of Church and Sunday School, and while the old are at their post of duty, the middled-aged pushing, and the young people ready to lend a helping hand, and while wide-awake church members are studying every plan to push forward the work of Christ, yet there is nothing which excites a deeper interest along this line, than a plan by which our young folks may be pushed foward in the work of furthering the great cause of capturing the world for Christ. It is a

question which strikes home to the heart of every parent and church member who has the love of the cause at heart. There was a time when churches put a small estimate upon the efforts of young people, but that time has long since passed away, and to-day the young are standing in the front, both in Church and State, and much good being done by those young in years and experience. Take for instance the B. Y. P. U., which has grown to be of great magnitude, and which is, no doubt, doing a vast amount of good all over this bright and prosperous land of ours, and through its workings our young and modest members are taking hold of, and learning to be useful in our prayer meetings and Sunday Schools, thereby learning to consecrate to God their young hearts, and first fruits. Brethren, let us not stand in the way of the young, but encourage them by giving them our hearty co-operation in all their undertakings for the Master, so that when they are grown up to womanhood and manhood, they may not be dwarfs, but Sampson's in Christ Jesus, then shall we see the kingdom of this earth become the kingdom of our Master. Respectfully submitted,

M. B. Neece.

Upon motion to adopt Rev. P. T. Hale stated if any one wanted to be informed on the workings of the Young People's Society with a view to organizing same, to write to him at Birmingham, and he would send necessary papers of instructions, etc. Speeches were made by Brethren R. E. Pettus, M. B. Neece and Rev. Oscar Haywood. Report adopted. On motion adjourned to 7 p. m. Prayer by Rev. W. L. White.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH, 1896.—MORNING SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. George Webster. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The following was offered by Perry Henderson :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that the Churches shall pay their pledges for Associational Mission to the Executive Committee as fast as collected and that said committee appropriate said funds as they deem best. Adopted.

The Association then proceeded to name a place to hold their next annual session. Temperance Oak and New Zion Churches having both invited the session to be held with their respective Churches. Pending the question Rev. N. D. Crutcher withdrew the name of New Zion and Temperance Oak was unanimously selected. Rev. J. A. Eaves was selected to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. J. W. Hilliard alternate.

Brother R. P. Whitman made report of Finance Committee :

death of Hon. Francisco Rice, a former Moderator of this Association. Committee: R P Whitman, J W Hilliard and John A Fanning.

Rev. H. E. Rice made report as follows on Intemperance:

REPORT ON INTEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Intemperance report as follows:

We recognize the sad fact that the liquor traffic has become an over-mastering and deadly evil, social, moral and political. Indeed, it is much doubted, whether there is in all the world a greater impediment to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, than the use of intoxicants. At no period of our history has its ruinous effects been more keenly felt, than now, in its rapid strides. It has invaded every class of society, corrupted every institution, established for the protection of human rights, and what is still more, it has disturbed the harmony of the churches, and brought reproach upon the cause of our blessed Master. The strong arm of the law is impotent and cannot be brought to bear so as to suppress this great evil. Like all other human invented institutions, its objections would be totally disregarded. How then are we to rid ourselves of this great evil, out of which nearly all the other evils grow? First, we would earnestly insist upon the strictest discipline of our members, even in its mildest form for intemperence, believing that the Scriptural injunction of "touch not, taste not, handle not," the only rule for a true Christian. A Church that has whiskey drinking members, cannot be a light to the world, but is a stumbling block to sinners. Second, if there is a remedy in the world, it is in the genuinely converted Christians of our land, who are willing to rise up as one man and throw themselves in front of its march and by precept and example, teach and warn its victims of the ruin upon which they rush. Until this is done, the Church is crippled, and will effect but little. When the Church and its members become free from the curse of intemperance, then God will answer prayer, and not till then will we be free from the evil.

H. E. Rice.

On motion to adopt, speeches were made by Revs. Oscar Haywood, W. L. White, P. T. Henderson, A. E. Burns and Brother R. A. Petty, after which report as read was adopted.

Brother Perry Henderson made report as follows on Religious Literature:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

It is truthfully said, that a reading people are a thinking people; hence we cannot too strongly insist that every Baptist family take at least

one good sound Baptist paper. None realize it more than the pastor. When church members are attentive readers of religious literature, they readily appreciate the efforts made by him to expound the word of God. The head of each family should keep plenty of good religious papers within reach of his children. If young people are not supplied with wholesome reading, they will soon cultivate a taste for the trashy ten cent novels that abound in the present day. We would be better Missionaries if we would take and read our Mission Journals and learn of the success we are having in christianizing the heathen.

Respectfully submitted,

PERRY HENDERSON,
S. W. BALCH,
W P. WEBSTER,
Committee.

Report adopted.

Rev. J. A. Eaves reported as follows on Indigent Ministers :

REPORT ON INDIGENT MIMISTERS.

To the Liberty Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHREN :—We your committee, to report on Indigent Ministers, beg leave to submit the following :

We have made a close investigation and find that we have no Indigent Ministers and we thank God that we have not. We hope that our churches will support our preachers so that there will be no one that will be classed as such. We your committee, would recommend that the Association look after and care for the widows of our deceased ministers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. EAVES,
H. M. TAEGUE.

Adopted.

Moved by Brother R. P. Whitman that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to nominate an executive committee and a committee to arrange programs for the fifth Sunday meetings. Motion carried. Committee: Brethren S. R. Butler, W. A. Power and W. L. Hilliard.

Brother R. E. Pettus made report on Orphan's Home as follows :

REPORT OF ORPHAN'S HOME.

Feeling a great necessity for a home for the fatherless and motherless children of our deceased ministers, and the poor of our State, our denomination endeavored for years to supply this demand, but nothing definite was formulated until six years ago, when Mrs. Woodson gave the Baptists of Alabama certain valuable property. This good sister has

turned over to us all of her real estate, worth several thousand dollars, to be used after her death for this great purpose, except the Florida property, which she has given for immediate use. The Baptist Orphanage was permanently located at Evergreen three years ago last November, and the property purchased at a cost of five thousand dollars. The debt has all been paid and the valuable property is now free from encumbrance. It consists of eighty acres of land, lying on Main Street, of which thirty acres are in farm, thirty in woods and twenty in pasture.

A letter received from Brother Stewart, the Superintendent this week, bears the intelligence that 29 boys and 31 girls have been received. Out of it have gone by adoption, ten boys and thirteen girls; by apprentice two boys. Girls are not aprenticed, and boys are only in exceptional cases.

The children attend the Agricultural School and most are doing well. They all attend Sunday School and Church. Eight of them have been baptized. More applications are made for admittance than can be accommodated,

There is a pressing need for a cook room, a laundry room, a dining room, and a sick room. While we are doing this, let us provide more dormitories, so we can care for many more of these homeless and friendless little waifs, that are found in every section of this State.

Brethren, shall we not undertake to make these needed additions? Since the cause is just and the demand is urgent, your committee earnestly solicits immediate contributions to this laudable enterprise.

Respectfully,

J. W. Hilliard,
R. E. Pettus.

Report adopted with a agreement a collection for same be made at to-morrows session. Brother R. E. Pettus made some very interesting remarks on the report.

Brother M. B. Neece made report on Young People's Work, viz :

REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

———o———

In this an age of church work, when christian people every where, are putting forth every legitimate effort to win the world for Christ and to build up the best interest of Church and Sunday School, and while the old are at their post of duty, the middled-aged pushing, and the young people ready to lend a helping hand, and while wide-awake church members are studying every plan to push forward the work of Christ, yet there is nothing which excites a deeper interest along this line, than a plan by which our young folks may be pushed foward in the work of furthering the great cause of capturing the world for Christ. It is a

question which strikes home to the heart of every parent and church member who has the love of the cause at heart. There was a time when churches put a small estimate upon the efforts of young people, but that time has long since passed away, and to-day the young are standing in the front, both in Church and State, and much good being done by those young in years and experience. Take for instance the B. Y. P. U., which has grown to be of great magnitude, and which is, no doubt, doing a vast amount of good all over this bright and prosperous land of ours, and through its workings our young and modest members are taking hold of, and learning to be useful in our prayer meetings and Sunday Schools, thereby learning to consecrate to God their young hearts, and first fruits. Brethren, let us not stand in the way of the young, but encourage them by giving them our hearty co-operation in all their undertakings for the Master, so that when they are grown up to womanhood and manhood, they may not be dwarfs, but Sampson's in Christ Jesus, then shall we see the kingdom of this earth become the kingdom of our Master. Respectfully submitted,

M. B. Neece.

Upon motion to adopt Rev. P. T. Hale stated if any one wanted to be informed on the workings of the Young People's Society with a view to organizing same, to write to him at Birmingham, and he would send necessary papers of instructions, etc. Speeches were made by Brethren R. E. Pettus, M. B. Neece and Rev. Oscar Haywood. Report adopted. On motion adjourned to 7 p. m. Prayer by Rev. W. L. White.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH, 1896.—MORNING SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. George Webster. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The following was offered by Perry Henderson :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that the Churches shall pay their pledges for Associational Mission to the Executive Committee as fast as collected and that said committee appropriate said funds as they deem best. Adopted.

The Association then proceeded to name a place to hold their next annual session. Temperance Oak and New Zion Churches having both invited the session to be held with their respective Churches. Pending the question Rev. N. D. Crutcher withdrew the name of New Zion and Temperance Oak was unanimously selected. Rev. J. A. Eaves was selected to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. J. W. Hilliard alternate.

Brother R. P. Whitman made report of Finance Committee :

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

——o——

LOCUST GROVE, ALA., SEPT. 18TH, 1896.

To the Liberty Baptist Association:

We your Finance Committee beg to submit the following as our report:

We have examined the books of Brother R. E. Pettus, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee and find them neatly and systematically kept.

We find that as per his bank book he has received	$281 58
Amount on hand last year	17 98
Total received	$299 87
Amount paid out as per receipts	$296 58
Leaving a balance	3 29
	$299 87

This amount of $3.29 is in the banking house of W. R. Rison & Co., Huntsville, Ala.

We have also examined the accounts and reports of the Clerk and Treasurer and find them also correct and congratulate this body for such efficient work as your financial officials have performed. We find that your Treasurer has received during the last Associational year the sum of $646 91 as follows:

By Vouchers, various purposes	$457 12
By Cash	189 79
Total	$646 91

And that the same was paid over to the Treasurer of the Executive Board as per his receipts filed with this Committee.

Your Committee further reports that they have received at this session of your body from the various churches within your bounds, the following: See financial exhibit.

You will see from this report that our financial condition for the year 1896, has not been as prosperous as the year 1895. During the year 1895 there was collected from all the various churches for all purposes the sum of $646.91, while in 1896 the same collections has only been $524.78 leaving a deficit $122.13. Your Committee deplores this state of facts as the demands of the times are calling for an increase. Your Committee desires to call your attention to the fact that we are gaining very little in our contributions to-day over the contributions of this Association in 1874, twenty-two years ago with only twelve churches, the amount then paid was about $500.

Your Committee finds that several of the churches pay nothing whatever to any of the interests that Baptists are fostering, and a majority fail to meet their pledges only in part. We, therefore recommend that your body do all in their power to impress upon the various churches, the sacredness of this kind of a pledge to the Master's work and urge upon them to be more prompt in the future, than in the past, in meeting this obligation. We recommend the envelope plan in all churches for their various collections to be the best and only feasible plan to systematically meet the pledges given. These envelopes can be gotten free by writing to Brother W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary of the State Board of Missions, Montgomery, Ala. Brethren try this!

Respectfully submitted,

R. P. Whitman,
G. T. Wilson,
C. H. Rice,
Committee

Adopted,

New Market Church reported vouchers of $2.25 for State Mission, after report was made and adopted, also Charty West 30 cents for Minutes.

Brother M. B. Neece made report on Synopsis of Church Letters as follows: Adopted.

SYNOPSIS OF CHURCH LETTERS.

—o—

To the Liberty Baptist Association in Session at Locust Grove, Ala., Sept. 18,'96

Dear Brethren—Hereto attached will be found Statistical Report of Church Letters as handed us by the various churches represented by delegates. As usual, some churches are doing all they can, and nobly too, on the other hand it seems that some of our churches are perfectly willing to inform us of the fact that they are still at peace with God and man, and satisfied with thirty cents for Missions, one dollar for Pastor salary and ten cents for Associational purposes. Now Brethren, such reports as this is not right for churches to send up and God will not bless that church whose members are so careless and unconcerned about the very work which is to-day the props under the great Baptist cause of our State. How can we as Baptists be satisfied with such gross neglect and still claim the blessings of Him who said "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel?" Brethren, let us be up and doing, and let us resolve here to-day, that hereafter we will be willing to aid financially in the carrying on of the work of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. Neece,
Thomas Bayless,

Bro. R. P. Whitman made the following report on Woman's Work, which on motion of Rev. Oscar Haywood, was adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Your committee on Woman's Work, submit their report as follows:

Feeling the great importance of the power and influence of the women of our churches, and in order to arouse a greater degree of interest and to stimulate and encourage this great power and influence within the bounds of the Liberty Baptist Association, a resolution was offered in this body two years ago, and adopted that this subject be placed in the list of the subjects and a committee to be appointed whose duty it should be to report thereon at each session of this body. At your session twelve months ago the first report was made by the Rev. Oscar Haywood, in which report he very forcibly pointed out the value of the work of the ladies of our denomination, stating in said report that within the bounds of your Association, there were only two organizations reported which were under the supervision and management the Ladies Aid Societies. These two societies are in the city of Huntsville, and I do not hesitate to state without fear of contradiction that the First Church and the Dallas Avenue Baptist Church of the city of Huntsville, owe more to their success, their prosperity, their spirituality and their great mission work to the self-sacrificing, self-denial and consecrated organized work of their women than to all other agencies combined. What is true in these two prosperous churches, is true of every church in our Southland who are blessed with these societies, and would be true of every church in existence that would foster this branch of church work. The subject is too broad, the field of work is too wide to tell of its wonderful progress, its beneficial results, its spiritual power in a report before this body, for its glorious effects are not only felt in this land of gospel privileges, but it reaches beyond the shores to the darkest regions of heathendom, where paganism holds her benighted sway—in that land they go there to the rescue of their sisters who are sitting in darkness—there they carry the motherhood of the church of the living God, there they have gone one after another—our sisters. Many have crossed over the stream from these Pagan shores, but others have gone like angels following after God to fill his blessed command, "Go." They have gone--in China, sisters Graves, Whilden, Simmons, McClure, Greene, Bryan, Price, Tatum, Britton, Chappel, Pierce and our own beloved Alabamian, Sister Willie Kelly and others. In Africa, sisters Pinnock, Smith and others, and in Japan standing like a stone wall, you will find Sisters McCollum, Maynard and others, besides the great hosts in the papal fields of Italy, Mexico and Brazil. This is only partially the work our noble women are doing.

Within the limits of our Southern Baptist Convention, is where the great engine is planted that is moving this grand machinery of woman's work

The Woman's Missionary Union, whose Auxiliaries are the Ladies' Aid Societies of our country and whose motto under the guidance and leadership of that princess of christain worker, Miss Annie W. Armstrong is "Go forward." We have watched their progress with solicitude and studied with keenest interests, their reports, and we greet the women of our denomination and rejoice that through their work, mission after mission has been planted, city after city successfully entered, schools after schools organized, soul after soul led to Christ, and they are still enlarg ing the influence of their circles. God has blessed you in your noble efforts to second ours. The doors of almost every church have swung wide open at your approach to give you welcome. Like those who ministered to him in Galilee and helped his Apostles on from city to city in the evangelization of the world and are to-day, what the Phoebes and Dorcases, the Loisess and Marys of the early church of one of whom he said, "She hath done what she could." We greet you in the name of our common Master and in behalf of our common work, we greet you and pray you to co-operate with us mightily in our great Church and Mission work. We greet the women of our congregations, of the Liberty Association and encourage you to awaken as to the magnitude and importance of this work. We greet you and entreat you to effectually organize Aid Societies, since by this means, a deeper interest may be aroused and church work and Missionary work, be more thoroughly disseminated. Such societies cultivate systematic benovolence and are helpful to every department of christian effort.

Oh, women of the Liberty Baptist Association, wake up. The world is wanting the Marthas and Marys of the Bible, in this great field the doors are open—the hour strikes—it is the dawn of a new day.

You can do everything, you can give, you can serve, you can pray, you can give willingly, you can serve lovingly, you can pray consolingly. The best example of self denying liberality in the Bible is recorded of woman. The best example of loving service in the Bible is recorded of woman. The best example of devotion in the Bible is recorded of woman —it was no great gift, no great service, no great prayer. The gift was a widow's mite. The service was the anointing of Jesus feet with a box of ointment--the prayer was a mother's prayer. But the gift—service and payer, were in the self denial--love and faith and God never permits these to return to him void.

Before closing this report, I feel it my duty to pay a tribute to the two small bands of christian women, who compose the only two Ladies Aid Societies within your bounds. They are small in numbers, great in

power, weak in finances, yet strong in good works and faith and love for the Master's harvest fields.

And while I pay this tribute to these ladies and their memories. I would not pluck a single gem from the Golden Crown of my beloved young minister and his faithful fellow laborers of the First Baptist Church, nor from my beloved pastor and his co-workers in the vineyard, for verily I say unto you, they will have their reward and their workmanship here will ever stand as a monument to their memories. Yet I feel that they will sustain me when I make the statement that that beautiful temple of God standing in the city of Huntsville to-day upon the sacred spot where once old Enon stood with her hallowed memories and pleasant recollections near and dear to our hearts, that magnificent structure with all its advantages, an honor to the city, an honor to the State, an honor to the denomination and a glory to God's love, and the quiet little chappel around the corner, consecrated by loving hands to the living God as the Dallas Avenue Baptist Church, where to meet is to worship—these two sacred tabernacles are in a large degree due to the self denial and sacrifices made by these Godly women, and I come to-day and lay that portion of the garlands of victory at their feet and crown them earthly queens ripening for the garner of God's Mansions above.

Respectfully,

R. P. Whitman,
M. A. Miller,
Committee.

Report on prayer meeting by Rev. W. W. Harris. On motion M. B. Neece, report adopted.

REPORT ON PRAYER MEETING.

Your committee on Prayer Meeting reports the following :

We find on examining the letters from the churches that quite a number have no prayer meeting, which is certainly to be deplored. We do not know the real cause of this neglected duty, but no doubt the excuse is "so few attend," forgetting the promise of the Master to bless even the small number of two or three if they meet in His name.

Gods children will not gain the victory by their own strength, nor in consequence of numbers, but by implicit trust in him. We cannot fully trust Him, unless we are in constant communication with Him. The prayer meeting is the place to find food for the hungry soul, strengthen the young membership of the church. There are many gifts, in the young and the old too, lying dormant, which can be brought out in no other way.

We recommend therefore, that every church organize and maintain a prayer meeting throughout the year if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. Harris,
T. J. Wall.

Special committee to draft resolutions on the death of Hon. Francisco Rice, submitted through Bro. R. P. Whitman their report. See last page.

The special order of business being the report of Missions, Rev. Oscar Haywood made the following report on Foreign Missions :

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

From the far shores of India, there once drifted to an American city, a boy who had heard from the lips of some tourists the wonderful story of American freedom, gold and beauty. He escaped from parental cruelty, took a west bound ship and finally landed in the slums of a sea coast town. His was the fate of thousands who had gone before him and who follow him every day, who seek to find in this land of fables, the realization of their dreams. Change of climate, want of food, congested his system and he fell a victim of yellow fever. He was carried to a hospital and was visited there by a minister who did not believe in Foreign Mission. To the heathen boy the christian minister made known the revelations of the christian religion. Day by day there dawned upon the mind darkened and shrouded by superstition the knowledge that saves, until the blue eyes that came from India, swam in tears of repentance, and finally beamed through the tears of joy. The boy who was seeking riches and liberty in America, found them in greater store, than the fairy stories he had been told of. In his dying hour, he said to the anti-Missionary minister, "my brothers and sisters cannot cross the ocean, but you can go to them. In India, thousands are dying without Jesus."

So the heathen from India converted the christian in America. This story may be imaginary, or it may be true, but it shows the absurdity of what may be called the geographical arguments against Missions. The anti-Missionary croker says we have enough to do here, why cross the seas to find people to save. If we will not go to the heathen, the heathen are coming to us. What is the difference betwen saving a heathen here and saving one in India; and says the whiner, if God wants to save the heathen, he will save them. If that be true, he will save them here as well as in India, then let the foreigner who comes to America go. God will save him. Again if it be true that God will save the heathen, the best way to save men is to heathenize them. When one is brought face to face with the conditions of the lost millions, the old geographical argument in mist and fog of ignorance disappears before the light of intelligence. Christianity is Missionary, the angels that sang their heaven born songs over the heathen plains of Palestine, were Missionaries, and Jesus came a great journey to preach the Gospel to men; he sent his disciples and without any knowledge of geography. Your committee would be glad to see the day when geographical lines would not be recognized

in Baptist assemblies. When there should be no Home Missions, Foreign Missions or State Missions, when the world shall be the field undivided by the surveyor's campass and free from sectionalism.

Respectfully,

OSCAR HAYWOOD.

Rev. A. E. Burns from Committee on State Mission, made report :

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The general work of Missions and evangelization, in Alabama is entrusted to a committee of twenty-one members, who are appointed annually by the Alabama Baptist State Convention They reside in different parts of the State, are distinguished for their love and loyalty to the kingdom and commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, and are designated as "the State Board of Missions." This committee, looking to God for grace and to Jesus for power, to the Holy Spirit for guidance, and to the hundred and thirteen thousand white Baptists of Alabama for the means, are pushing and prosecuting to the utmost limit of their ability the following work :

MISSIONARY PASTORAL WORK.

I.—The Board has sustained, or helped to sustain Missionary pastors at important points where our cause was weak, but might with a little help and encouragement soon become strong and self sustaining. Such an one is Dallas Avenue Church in our own Association. It ought to inspire us with gratitude to God and stimulate us to greater effort to know that some of the strongest and most liberal churches in the State to-day were only a few years ago, aided by our Board. The present prospects lead us to expect that those now being helped will soon become strong enough to stand and walk alone and will immediately begin to pay back the money lent them by enabling us to help other points now crying for assistance.

MISSIONARY EVANGELISTIC WORK.

II.—At the last session of the State Convention our Board was instructed to employ six men, whose duty it should be to go from Association to Association and from Church to Church, preaching on Missions, imparting information, strengthening the hands of the pastors and stirring up the churches to a doubling of their diligence in the work of the world's evangelization. It has been impossible for the Board to carry out those instructions fully for want of funds. Only three men have labored in this field; the corresponding Secretary, Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, D. D., with headquarters in Montgomery; Rev. S. O. Y. Ray, at Troy, and the writer have labored in the middle, Southern and Northern parts of the State respectively. Brother Bledsoe, succeeding Rev. W. B. Crumpton,

January 1st, has labored faithfully and efficiently, winning the love and confidence of our people, wherever he has gone. Brother Ray has done a magnificent work enlisting the sympathies and securing the co-operation of all with whom he has come in contact. The Board is convinced that if this kind of work can be continued, thousands of Baptists in the State now o-missionary or anti-missionary may be aroused and led to hearty co-operation in the greatest work ever committed by God to man, namely: The world's evangelization.

MISSIONARY COLPORTAGE WORK.

III.—Many Associations in the State with a little aid and encouragement on the part of the Board, have their Missionary colporters who go from church to church, community to community and house to house preaching the gospel, soliciting subscribers to the Alabama Baptist and other good religious papers, and selling and giving away the Bible and other good Baptist books. The result of this work are most gratifying and the Board only deplores its inability to push the same to the utmost limits of the State.

MINISTERIAL INSTITUTE WORK.

IV.—The object of this work is to bring together as many pastors and preachers of a given Association or district as possible, at convenient times and places and let them spend a week or so together in worship and attending daily lectures on the Bible, Baptist doctrines, and preaching. Wherever these have been held, they have given a mighty uplift and proven an inspiration to all who have attended them. We do most heartily commend this department of our state work to the prayerful consideration of all our ministry.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

V.—With reference to this department of our State work, little need be written. That the means of acquiring knowledge are multiplying every day no one will question. As the masses educate, so must the ministry, for intelligence will not sit complacently at the feet of ignorance. God is calling many young men into the ministry, and as of old time, "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." But as the Apostles, ignorant men, must first sit three years at the feet of him whom spake as never man spake, and then tarry at Jerusalem until endued with power from on high before venturing upon the work committed unto them, and as Paul, the prince of Apostles—by the way, a college graduate--must needs spend three years in the deserts of Arabia in communion with God and the study of the prophecies before entering upon his illustrious career, so the young men of to-day, called from the humble walks of life, must be equipped for the work of all work

that enlists all the affections and energies of an omnipotent and omniscient Triune God. They must educate and they must have help, substantial help and encouragement. That takes money. To raise and disburse this is one of the duties required of our Board.

Brethren of the Liberty Association, can any of these departments of work be neglected without serious damage to our Baptist Zion? But their successful prosecution will require liberal contributions from the many. May the Lord incline your hearts to give, even as He also has prospered you. Respectfully submitted,

A. E. Burns, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Our Home Mission Board is doing a great work. One of the gravest difficulties in the way of our work is that people do not realize the great needs of our field. It requires no argument or even thought to convince any one interested in Missions that there is destitution in China, India or Africa. But they are so accustomed to the enjoyment of religious privileges themselves that they cannot realize that in this favored land there are any communities which are without such privileges. It requires facts, argument, reflection to produce the conviction that there is destitution in America as well as in foreign fields. It is a startling thought that as all are born without knowledge of truth, if evangelistic efforts should cease, America would become as much a Pagan country as China within a single generation. It is another startling fact that, notwithstanding all that has been done by our Churches and Mission Boards in the last fifty years, and the great success that has attended their efforts, though Baptists have increased from 450,000 to 2,600,000 in this Southern land, there are more unregenerated persons within the limits of our Southern Convention than were there fifty years ago. We therefore urge the churches of this Association to contribute to this cause. Respectfully submitted,

W. L. Hilliard,
N. D. Crutcher.

On motion to adopt the reports, discussion was had by Rev. A. E. Burns, pending which, the hour for preaching having arrived. and after an intermission of five minutes Rev. A. W. McGaha preached from 2nd Timothy and 12th verse. Association adjourned to 2 p. m. with prayer by Rev. A. W. McGaha.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met at 2 p. m. with a prayer by Rev. W. W. Harris. Discussions of Missions was then resumed by Rev. A. E. Burns, presenting the claims of the Mission Journal, published at Selma, Alabama, taking subscriptions for same. Pending which, the Committee appointed to

nominate an Executive Committee and a Committee to arrange fifth Sunday meetings, reported as follows: We recommend for an Executive Committee, Dr. J. P. Hampton, R. E. Pettus, R. P. Whitman, M. B. Neece, H. E. Rice and J. M. Gooch; for fifth Sunday meetings, W. W. Harris, J. C. Jones, J. W. Hillard, Perry Henderson and G. T. Wilson.

S. R. Butler,
W. L. Hilliard,
W. A. Power.

Resolution offered by Brother Perry Henderson :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association, that the churches shall pay their pledges for Associational Missions to the Executive Committee as fast as collected and that said funds shall be appropriated as they deem best.

Adopted.

The following resolution by Brother W. T. Jones read and adopted :

Whereas, As the Apostle Paul has said: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto the salvation of every one that believeth. Therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association, as it meets from year to year, be furnished with a gospel sermon at 11 o'clock a. m, each day of its session.

Upon motion of Rev. H. E. Rice preaching was dispensed with at night service, and no session held at night.

The Moderator announced that on tomorrow at 9:30 a. m. a Sunday School mass meeting would be held, and the Committee on Sunday Schools would report; and at 11 a. m. Rev. A. E. Burns would occupy the stand and preach at said hour.

A resolution by Bro. R. E. Pettus was read and adopted:

Resolved. That the thanks of this Association be cordially extended the members of Locust Grove Church and their friends for the kind and hospitable manner in which they received and entertained us during this session. Long will these sweet recollections linger with us and cheer us on in our labors for the Master.

Upon motion of Brother R. P. Whitman, the Association proceeded to the election of Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention and the Alabama Baptist State Convention and Corresponding Delegates to sister Associations:

Dr. J. P. Hampton was elected Delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and Rev. W. W. Harris, Alternate.

To State Baptist Convention, R. E Pettus, Rev. W. W. Harris, M. B. Neece, Rev. H. E. Rice, Perry Henderson and Rev. A. E Burns. Alter-

nates: J. A. Erwin, Rev. J. A. Eaves, Rev. J. W. Hilliard, W. A. Power, Rev. N. D. Crutcher and W. E. Pettus.

To Muscle Shoal Association: R. P. Whitman and J. W. Wall.

To Wm. Carey Association: Dr. J. P. Hampton and Richard Taylor.

To Tennessee River Association: Revs. W. W. Harris, A. E. Burns and J. A. Eaves.

The discussion of Mission was resumed, and speeches were made by Revs. W. W. Harris and J. A. Eaves; pledges were made as follows:

Bethel Church	$ 2.00	Piney Grove Church	$ 2.00
Beulah Church	5.00	Round Island Church	7.50
Dallas Avenue Church	100.00	Temperance Oak Church	5.00
1st Church of Huntsville	100.00	Union Grove Church	5.00
Locust Grove Church	10.00	Walnut Hill Church	2.00
Mt. Zion Church	20.00	Mt. Pisgah Church	2.00
New Zion Church	8.00	Rice Church	15.00
New Market Church	6.00		

Total by Churches $292.50.

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

—o—

W. B. Lawler (Orphan's Home)	$1.00	Mrs. G. A. Taylor, (Mission) pd.	1.00
W. H. Thorn, " "	50	Miss Bettie Power, "	2.50
W. H. Thorn, (Mission)	50	G. A. Taylor, (Min. Ed.)	1.00
G. A. Taylor, (Orpan's Home)	1.00		

Resolution by Brother R. E. Pettus. Adopted.

Resolved, That Liberty Baptist Association hereafter take up the subject of Mission on the second day of each session of this body at 10 a. m. and dispose of the same without allowing any other subject to hinder.

Brother R. E. Pettus made a very touching and appropriate address upon the condition of Rev. A. J. Parker and family, at the conclusion of which, the amount of $10 was raised for his benefit.

Moved by Brother R. P. Whitman that we now adjourn till Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m., prayer by Rev. H. E. Rice.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1896.

Association met pursuant to adjournment at 9:30 a. m. Prayer by Rev. P. T. Henderson. Minutes read and approved.

Brother R. P. Whitman made report on Sabbath Schools as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

—o—

What is a Sunday School? It is simply a church at work. The

church teaching the word of God. Your committee fully realize that in all christian work, there is no field so broad in its good results outside of the church of Christ as the labors in the Sabbath Schools, while reports have been made in many forms—orations delivered as to its unspeakable importance, essays read of its inestimable value, papers, tracts and religious literature sent abroad throughout our whole country upon this subject. It still stands inexhaustible like the precious truths of holy writ, boundless in its researches and unlimited in its accomplishment for doing good, and it is with sad regret that we as individuals as Baptist Churches, are seeming so indifferent to this greatest auxiliary, in fact the grand foundation stone for successful effectual and spiritual christian work. Statistics, experience, observation and history will bear us out in the assertion that no church can more progressively, numerically or spiritally unless its members are faithful and earnest Sabbath School workers, and as its doors are but guide-stones pointing to the church of Christ, the finger boards of heaven. We feel we cannot lay too much stress on its importance in trying to impress it vividly and pointedly upon the tablets of the hearts of the delegates of this Association and upon the minds and consciences of this people and upon the Baptists of our Southland,that they may go forth from this body with renewed zeal to do more effective work for the Master in the line of propegating and sustaining well organized Sabbath Schools within the sacred walls of every temple dedicated to God within the bounds of the Liberty Association. It is a fact undeniable, that if we expect to perpetuate the kingdom of our blessed Lord with any degree of success upon this earth, we must gather into its folds the children of our county and the surest and most effectual way is to train them up in the Sabbath Schools.

There is no surer safeguard for the perpetuation of our government, the maintainance of our great religious liberty bought by the martyrdom of our Baptist forefathers, the protection of our homes, the sustaining of the high plane of the morals and society as a due observance of the Sabbath day and Sabbath School work. The American Sabbath is fast becoming a thing of the past, especially so in the larger cities and the great undeveloped Western States. Our people as a nation are fast forgetting the commands of our creator: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The record of our county, State and national prison houses will testify that within their criminal walls, among the many thousands of condemned unfortunate criminals. there is not 3 per cent. who were Sabbath School workers. This alone Brethren, should arouse every energy we may possess to use every exertion we can command to bring this vast field of work before our people and plant a live energetic and working Sabbath School within the pale of every Baptist Church in Christendom.

From your Church Letters to this Association, we find that there are

within your bounds, eight Sunday Schools representing 539 scholars, of this number, the two schools in Huntsville furnish 394 scholars, leaving only 145 scholars in the rest of the Liberty Association in Sabbath Schools Twelve churches report no schools. Bethel, Beulah, Charity East, Dallas Ave, 1st Baptist Huntsville, Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Zion and Locust Grove report schools, while Charity West, New Market, Oakley, Piney Grove, Pleasant Valley, Rice, Round Island, Temperance Oak, Union Grove and Walnut Hill report no schools. How can we succeed with these facts staring us in the face?

STATISTICAL REPORT.

There are in the United States 116,412 Sabbath Schools, with 1,342,301 teachers and 11,242,416 scholars. In the State of Alabama there are 1826 Schools, 17,426 teachers and 114.626 scholars. In the County of Madison there are 63 Schools, with 586 teachers and 3624 scholars, of this number 1224 are over the age of 21 years, 1916 are christian and 1708 are non professors. During the past year there were 394 conversions in the various Sunday Schools in this County, of this number only 72 were in Baptist Sabbath Schools. In the County of Madison there are 7428 white children between the ages 3 and 21, leaving a number of children in this County between the ages of 3 and 21, who never attend Sabbath Schools, 3708 —think of it, in this favored County, where the various denominational church spires are dotted all over its fields and more than one-half of our children never attend a house of worship for any purpose. Parents of Madison County, fathers and mothers of the Liberty Baptist Association, what are you going to do about it, what are your responsibilities, how are you going to meet these responsibilities? They are your God given jewels, more precious in the sight of Him, who said suffer them come, than all the diamond fields of the worlds great treasury.

Brethren of the Baptist Churches, we are being outstripped by other denominations on this great question—where the children are taught, there the children will teach in future ages—into the Schools your children go and are having doctrines taught there. Your children will dissimulate such doctrine, sap the foundation stone of your church, which are the children and your whole structure will eventually fall—there are 12,000 Baptist Churches in the Southern Territory, without Sabbath Schools. It has been truly said by a Catholic Priest, give him the control of the children of the United States up to the age of 7 years and he would Catholicize America in one generation, could drive every vestige of protestants from her borders, could make converts of her colleges, waste places of her great yards and Catholic Schools of her Churches. Then Brethren, in view of this threatening danger, for it is a danger we urge you to look well to your future growth in church, extension and Sabbath training of the young, entrusted to your care. The destiny of our coun-

try depends much more upon the religious training of our children, than upon any element of intellectual or physical power. "It is not Schools and Colleges, not railroad and factories, not steamship and commercial advantages, but righteousness that exalted a nation. For our country's sake, for the sake of the children who gather like Olive Plants around our firesides and tables. For humanitys sake, for the Master's glory and for the worlds redemption, let us strive to make this great nation a people whose God is the Lord." We recommend the Southern Baptist Sunday School Literature for all Baptist Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

R. P. WHITMAN,
J. W. TURNER,
A. J. PARKER.

Speeches were made on said report by Dr. J. P. Hampton, Rev. P. T. Henderson, Dr. R. A. Pettey and Bro. R. P. Whitman, after which the report was adopted.

The Moderator announced as Standing Committees:

Foreign Missions—Rev. W. W. Harris, J. W. Freeman and G. W. Webster.

Home Missions—R. E. Pettus, M. P. Norton and J. W. Hamer.

State Mission—S. R. Butler, R. W. Moore and John Willis.

Associational Mission—R. P. Whitman, T. H. Bayless and J. L. Brumley.

Education—J. C. Jones, C. H. Rice and M. R. Gooch.

Intempenance—J. W. Hilliard, Z. T. Pettey and D. C. Ramsey.

Religious Literature—A. E. Burns, M. A. Taylor and G. T. Wilson.

Indigent Ministers—Perry Henderson, T. J. Wall and T. E. Thorn.

Orphan's Home—M. B. Neece, W. J. Baugher and Frank Bunnell.

Woman's Work—H. E. Rice, Arthur Wall and E. M. Giles.

Young People's Work—W. E. Pettus, H. M. Teague and J. T. Cliff.

Prayer Meeting—W. A. Power, George Taylor and C. H. Hughes.

Sunday School—N. D. Crutcher, E. E. Key and W. F. Manning.

The following resolutions were offered by Bro. R. P. Whitman:

WHEREAS, in view of the fact that there is considerable business of importance to be tranasacted during the closing hours of this Association, and,

WHEREAS, a small minority of the delegates are left to transact such business,

Therefore be it Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that it is very important that those who are sent here by the various churches

to represent them, should remain until its adjournment, and we do earnestly request all the churches composing the Liberty Association in the future, in the selection of their delegates, that they shall only send such representatives as who will agree to fully discharge the duties intrusted to them by remaining until the final adjournment unless providentially called away.

Resolved 2nd, That should any delegate desire leave of absence, he shall apply to the Moderator for such leave in order that the Moderator may know who are present to make up the committees.

Resolved 3rd, That we are of the opinion that there is just the same solemn christian obligation resting upon each individual delegate to remain until the close of the sessions of this body, as there is upon the Moderator, Clerk and Committees who are required to report.

The resolution was adopted by a rising vote.

At 11 a. m., Rev. A. E. Burns preached upon the subject of Tithing Text: Leveticus 27th Chapter, 30 to 34th verses. A public collection for Mission amounting to $13,63 in cash, after giving the parting hand, the Moderator declared the Association adjourned to meet with Temperance Oak Church, Limestone County, Alabama, on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1897. Prayer by Rev. H. E. Rice.

J. P. HAMPTON,
MODERATOR.

PERRY HENDERSON,
CLERK.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF LIBERTY (NORTH) ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	State Missions...		State Missions...		Foreign Missions		Clerk.....	Ministerial Ed...		Orphens Home..		Minutes....	Total	Total		Summary		
	Cash.	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Cash	Cash	Voucher			
Bethel	$	$ 4 40	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 50	$ 4 90	$ 50	$ 4 40	State M	$ 60 46	$194 67
Beulah	2 28	2 72						1 50		1 00		50	8 00	5 28	2 72	Home M	7 25	14 50
Charity, East	6 20	1 05										1 25	8 50	7 45	1 05	For. M	8 25	52 65
Charity, West.....																Min. Ed.	25 50	97 00
Dallas Avenue.....	15 25	59 75		10 00		15 00	1 00		35 00		15 00	4 05	165 05	20 25	144 80	Orp. H.	7 50	18 00
1st Ch. Huntsville....	7 00	30 81				29 24	1 00		60 00			4 00	132 05	12 00	12 005	Sem'y		10 00
Locust Grove.....	4 23	5 77					50	5 00		3 00		1 50	20 00	14 23	577	Minutes	25 50	
Mt. Pisgah.....		3 14										50	3 64	50	314	Clerk	3 50	
Mt. Zion.....		63 96							2 00			3 00	68 96	3 00	65 96			
Madison																		
New Market.....					3 00							50	3 50	3 50				
New Zion		11 32	6 00		2 50	8 41	50	5 00		1 50	3 00	2 00	40 23	17 50	22 73			
Oakley																		
Piney Grove..... ...	5 00							2 00		1 00		1 70	9 70	9 70				
Pleasant Valley.....												60	60	60				
Rice B Church		11 75		4 50			50					1 60	18 35	2 10	16 25			
Round Island.....	6 00		1 25		1 25			2 00				1 00	11 50	11 50				
Temperance Oak	5 00									1 00		80	6 80	6 80				
Union Grove.....	3 50							10 00				1 00	14 50	14 50				
Walnut Hill	4 50											1 00	5 50	5 50				
T. E. Thorn.....	1 00				1 00								2 00	2 00				
W. H. Thorn.....	50				50								1 00	1 00				
Total - - -	$60 46	$194 67	$7 25	$14 50	$8 25	$52 65	$3 50	$25 50	$97 00	$7 50	$18 00	$25 50	$524 78	$137 96	$386 87		$137 69	$386 82

STATISTICS OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1896.

CHURCHES	County.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	Clerk's P O.	Membership last reported	INC'R'D BY				DECR'D BY				Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Name of Churches organized during year.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Voucher.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers & Teachers	Pupils.	Supt's Name and P. O. Ad.			
Bethel,	Madison,	N D Crutcher,	J W Webster,	Hayden,	32	1	1				1			33	5	32	J B Hinds, Hayden,	4th	Reg	
Beulah,	Limestone	N D Crutcher,	C A Carroll	Center Hill,	68	5	1			3	4	2	2	63	5	25	G F Power, Center Hill,			
Charity, E.	Madison,	H E Rice,	S M Honea,	New Market,	49	1							1	49	5	41	J B Honea,			
" W.	"	W I Jacks,	J W Tanner,	Hazel Green,	29	8	4							41						
Dallas Ave,	"	W W Harris,	R P Whitman,	Huntsville,	121	40	29			22	4	22		142	11	200	R E Pettus, Huntsville.	each	Reg	
1st. B. Church,	"	Oscar Haywood,	M B Neece,	"	199	19	6		3	8	2		1	216	17	194	John A Erwin, Huntsville.	each	Reg	
Locust Grove,	"	H E Rice,	J J Lawler,	Deposit,	147	4				22	3			126	6		J J Lawler, Deposit.	2 & 4		
Mt. Pisgah,	"	F M Hutchinson,	J B Keeton.	Athens,	new	15	23		7					50	6	60	J Leonard,			Mt. Pirgah.
Mt, Zion,	"	J W Hilliard,	Joseph Adkins,	Nebo,	353	24	6			21	1		1	360			Joseph Atkins, Cluttsville.			
New Market,	"	None,	C H Rice.	New Market,	28					10			3	15						
New Zion,	"	N D Crutcher,	J T Cliff,	Nebo,	66	1	2							69	6	35	Geo Strange Monrovia.			
Oakley,	"																			
Poplar Creek,	Limestone																			
Piney Grove,	"	N D Crutcher,	G W Johnson,	Cairo,	105	29				36	1			97						
Pleasant Valley	"	F M Hutchison,	J W Pittman,	Elkmont,	40	2	2		1					45			J M Head, Elkmont,			
Rice's,	Madison,	H E Rice,	W T Jones,	New Market,										44	6	50		1st		Rice.
Round Island,	Limestone	W T Cobb,	Perry Henderson,	Athens,	67	2	2	2		4	1			68						
Tem. Oak,	"	F G Posy,	T J Rose,	Tick Ridge,	73	3				5			1	70						
Union Grove,	Madison,	W I Jacks,	W F Manning,	Carmichael,	65	1				7	1		2	56				3rd		
Walnut Hill,	Limestone	F M Hutchison,	C E McNeely.	Elkmont.	25	31	7	3	1	6		2	2	58	5	39	M B McNeely, Elkmont.			
Total, - -					1467	186	83	5	12	144	18	26	12	1602	72	676				

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1—Call to order by former Moderator.

2—Annual or introductory sermon.

3—Call for Church letters and enroll delegates.

4—Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

5—Call for petitionary letters.

6—Correspondents and visitors.

7—Appointment of Committees by Moderator.

(a) On religious services, to report on call.

(b) On Synopsis of Church letters.

(c) On finance.

8—Report of Clerk and Treasurer.

9—Call for report of standing committee.

(a) Committee on Missions.

(b) Committee on Education.

(c) Committee on Temperance.

(d) Committee on Religious Literature.

(e) Committee on Indigent Ministers.

(f) Committee on Prayer Meeting.

(g) Committee on Orphans Home.

(h) Committee on Womans Work.

(i) Report of Executive Committee.

10—Appoint a place for meeting.

11—Appoint a brother to preach introductory sermon.

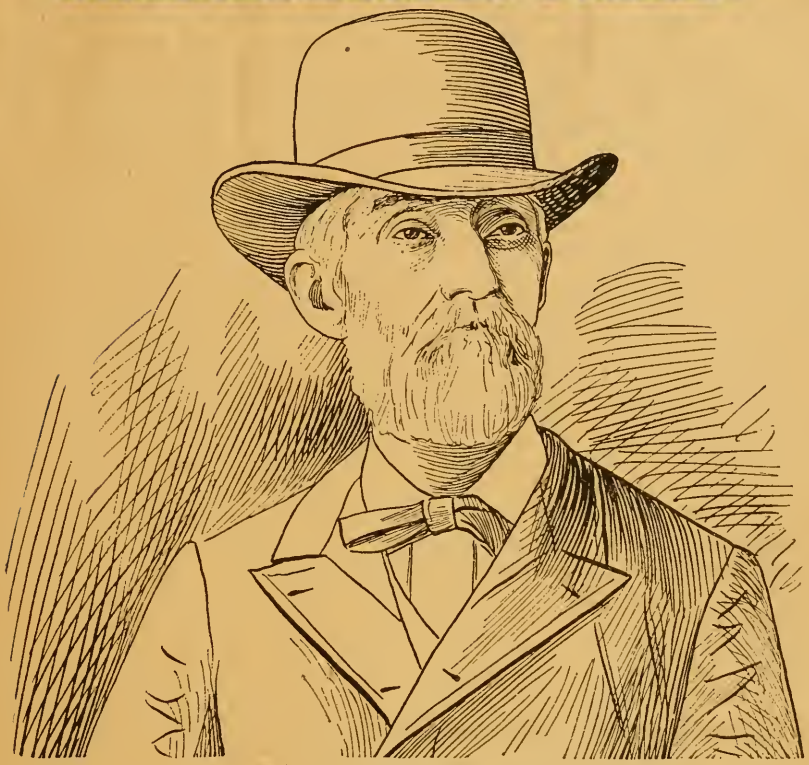
12—Announce standing committees to report at next meeting.

13—Appoint messengers to other bodies.

14—Miscellaneous business.

15—Report on Sunday Schools.

16—Adjournment.



HON. FRANCISCO RICE.

IN MEMORIAM.

———o———

To the Liberty Baptist Association :

Your committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions upon the death of our Brother, Francisco Rice, offer the following:

WHEREAS, God hath ordained that all men should die in order that there might be a glorious resurrection and one by one has he plucked the veteran jewels of this Association and transplanted them with the Association of the saints above where Christ is the Moderator, King and Mediator, and,

WHEREAS, since the last sessions of this body, our dearly beloved brother and friend, Hon. Francisco Rice, our former Moderator of this

Association has been called by Him, who ruleth over the destinies of his people to his reward. Therefore be it

Resolved by this Association in session assembled, that we bless our Father in Heaven, that he gives unto us the lives of such men in our denomination, whose devotion and whose history we are unwilling to forget. Such a man was Brother Francisco Rice, his familiar form will be missed by many of the older members of this body. His wisdom and experience had often guided and assisted in the deliberations of our sessions.

Resolved, that we meekly submit to this sad decree of our blessed Master and strive to emulate the beautiful virtues that cluster like golden jewels along the path-way of his honored life, and while we may not erect a marble shaft to perpetuate his memory—we have erected and builded on the tablets of our hearts a monument which will live after shafts and marble shall have crumbled to dust.

Resolved, 3rd, that we as a body, feel deeply the loss of Brother Rice in our homes, in our councils, in our deliberations and would commend his widow and children to the care of the God that he served through a long and faithful life as their comforter and protector. To his church to which he was so devoted, our sympathies in their sad loss and bereavement.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be printed on a page of the Minutes of this Association, separately devoted for this purpose. A copy forwarded to the family of our deceased brother, who is only sleeping the time between the grave and the resurrection morn away.

Respectfully submitted,

R. P. Whitman,
W. L. Hilliard,
John A. Fanning,
Committee.

HUTCHENS & MURDOCK,

PRACTICAL PLUMBERS

Gas and Water Pipe Fitters,

HUNTSVILLE, - - - ALABAMA.

J. B. LAUGHLIN & SON,

UNDERTAKERS, EMBALMERS and HOUSE FURNISHERS

Laughlin Building, West Clinton Street. Telephone 43.

HUNTSVILLE, - - ALABAMA.

BELL, PARKS & COMPANY,

GENERAL

Bicycle and Machine Shops

Cor. Holmes and Church Streets,

HUNTSVILLE, - - - ALABAMA.

C. S. JACKSON & CO.,

The Home Furnishers,

On Easy Payments or Lowest Prices for Cash. . . . . .

Cor. Washington and Holmes Sts. HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

MURRAY & WHITE,

Jewelers and Stationers,

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

Booksellers and Dealers in Wall Paper, Art Materials and Gold Pens.
Oxford Bibles at Bargain Prices.
Fountain Pens 25 cents. Special Bargain Box Papers 25 cents.

W. L. HALSEY has just received the first solid car load of CANDAY and CRACKERS ever brought to the city. 1000 packages which we offer cheap.

BROWN TAILORING CO.,

The Popular Merchant Tailors

LEADERS OF LOW PRICES,

OPP. HUNTSVILLE HOTEL,

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

B. C. WALLACE,

ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHER.

I make the finest Pictures, a look will convince you. Call and see me while in . . .

HUNTSVILLE, - ALABAMA.

CALL AND SEE

BROCK & PENNY,

—DEALERS IN—

Dry Goods, & Gen'l Merchandise,

WHEN YOU ARE IN THE CITY.

McGee Hotel Block, Huntsville, Alabama.

C. F. YARBROUGH & BRO

—WHOLESALE AND RETAIL—

Grocers and Provision Dealers,

Cor. Washington and Holmes Sts.,

Huntsville, - Alabama.

E. C. ORGAIN,

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES.

COUNTRY PRODUCE,

Huntsville, - Alabama.

R. E. & W. W. E. PETTUS,

WHOLESALE GROCERS.

SELL TO MERCHANTS ONLY.

CARRY A GENERAL LINE OF STAPLE GROCERIES.

SPECIALTIES:

Perfection Flour, Arbuckle's Coffee and Garrett's Snuff.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.